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AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1951



STOURBRIDGE
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Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1951.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 13.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 12.8 for 1950. The Live Birth Rate was 16.2 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 13.1 for 1950. There was 1 Still-birth. The Infantile Mortality Rate was nil per 1000 live births.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in the early months of the year. It was not severe and there were no deaths from the disease.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.6
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1951)	-	-	-	3079
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	928
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.4
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£20,012
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£77

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

	M.	F.	Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
Live Births } Legitimate Total 50 :	22	28	16.2
Births } Illegitimate — : —			

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 1 ; Rate per 1000
Total (live and still-births) - - - 40.0

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1951 - - - 15.5

Deaths - 42--Males, 19 ; Females, 23 ;

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - - - - 13.6

Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - - 11.8

Death Rate, England & Wales, 1951 - - - 12.5

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes - Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - - Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :
(per 1000 live births) - - - - Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

England & Wales - - - - 29.6 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - - 11

Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 3.5

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - Nil.
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - - Nil.
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - - Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (42).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
Nil	Nil	Nil	1	2	9	30

14 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,
 and 8 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1950		1951	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	2	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	1	1
Measles	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Cancer	-	-	7	4
Diabetes	-	-	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	-	2	1	2
Heart Disease	-	5	3	5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	2	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	1	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	-	-	1	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes	-	-	1	1
All other Causes	-	-	4	3
TOTALS		24	16	19
			40	23

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.
As 1938

ADOPTIVE ACTS.
As 1938

SECTION B.

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF
THE AREA.**

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist, Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations :

	Number of Specimens sent for Report		10
	Total.	Positive.	
Diphtheria (Swabs)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sputum	10	1	9

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

- Health Centres ;
- Care of Mothers and Young Children ;
- Midwifery ;
- Health Visiting ;
- Home Nursing ;
- Vaccination and Immunisation ;
- Ambulance Services ;
- Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare ;
- Domestic Help.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.
(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.
3. (i) Closet Accommodation.
(ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.
The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.
4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.
5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1951.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - - - - 4

2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - - - - Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners - - - - - Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners - - - - - Nil.

(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - - - - Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - - - - Nil.

(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - - Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit - - - - - Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1951)	- - -	Nil.
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	-	Nil.
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	-	Nil.
(b) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	- - -	Nil.
(c) (1) Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	- - -	Nil.
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	-	Nil.
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	- - -	Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1951.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.										Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths
		1 under year	2 to 2 yrs.	3 to 3 yrs.	4 to 4 yrs.	5 to 5 yrs.	10 to 10 yrs.	15 to 15 yrs.	20 to 20 yrs.	35 to 35 yrs.	45 to 45 yrs.		
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	53	2	7	11	11	6	16	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	...	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	64	2	8	12	14	8	18	-	-	-	1	1

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1951.**

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1951 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	2	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	35	8	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		44	10	2	—	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	2	2	—	—		10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11						11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12						12
TOTAL ..		2	2	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report OF THE Sanitary Inspector For the Year 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you in an abbreviated form my report for the Year 1951.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	912	}
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-	4	
Houses provided with Earth Closets	-	12	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets		793	}
Houses provided with Water Closets in common	119		
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		16	

The houses not provided with Water Closets are situate in an outlying part of your district which is extensively used for Fire Clay Mining. Sewer accommodation is not practicable.

Removal of Household Refuse and Salvage Collection.

912 Houses out of 928 are provided with Sanitary Dust Bins and Covers of Galvanised Iron. Refuse Removal is carried out by Direct Labour. Collection is bi-weekly. The amount of ashes removed is still considerable due to the inferior quality of fuel supplied for domestic consumption. Disposal is by tipping. The tip is used for purposes other than domestic refuse which is covered within a short time of tipping. It is so conveniently situated that a horse drawn vehicle is much more economical than one mechanically propelled.

Dust Bins to replace those worn out have been provided at 4 houses—2 by owners and 2 by occupiers. No objections to the Notices given were made. Up to the present no necessity has arisen for the Council to give consideration to the supply of Dust Bins.

Salvage is not collected directly. Small amounts of paper are received at the office and taken away weekly. The Chief Sanitary Inspector of Brierley Hill Urban District Council is advised of larger quantities and arranges for their collection.

Housing.

The hope that a scheme for the erection of 48 Flats, to be built in 3 storeys, would be in progress during 1951 has not been fulfilled. There are, however, prospects that a start will be made in the Spring of 1952. These will assist in alleviating the shortage of dwelling houses but will not overcome it. Costs are steadily increasing and rents will be correspondingly higher. A rate contribution of £8 18s. 0d. per house per annum for 60 years will be reflected in future Rate Poundages. The proposed development of your District under Town and Country Planning does not include a Housing Site. The proposals indicate that the present population should be regarded as having reached its limit. One dwelling house—owner occupier—is in course of erection.

Housing Conditions.

The houses in your District may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1)
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	315
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	526
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			86

One house, Amblecote Hall, 26 Vicarage Road, has been reported as "Unfit for Human Habitation." Its condition was brought about by Clay Mining Operations. It is to be demolished.

The following houses were dealt with by Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, viz :—15 High Street, 67 Brettell Lane, 125 and 146 King William Street. Proceedings were instituted in respect of 67 Brettell Lane. The Justices made the necessary order which was complied with. Informal Notices were given in respect of the following houses, viz :—40 and 48 Platts Crescent, Nos. 40 to 49, Nos. 79, 80 Collis Street, Nos. 39 and 40, No. 142, No. 125 and No. 155 King William Street, 74/75 High Street and No. 1 Dial Lane.

Abatement Notices.—informal and statutory—within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on the owners of 38 houses.

The cost of repairs still presents a major problem. The provision of a separate wash-house and lavatory have in 2 instances been responsible for an expenditure greater than the original cost of the houses.

Overcrowding.—There is little actual overcrowding. The average number of persons per house is 3.4. Occupation of houses by 2 families, generally related, is common. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1100.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

Water Supply.

With one exception all premises receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The principal Bore Holes (at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow) are situated in your District. Samples of Water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are taken at frequent intervals. The Laboratories are provided by the County Council. The Reports indicate a certain Hardness but otherwise the Water is of excellent quality for drinking. Close co-operation is maintained with the Engineer to the Board.

Retailers of Milk. Milk & Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations 1949.

Milk is produced at 2 Farms and retailed locally. Notification of 3 samples of milk which did not conform to the standard of "Ungraded Milk" was received. After a visit by the Milk Regulations Officer it was stated "that there was no further cause for complaint." A case of Bovine Infection was notified by the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford. Immediate steps were taken to ensure Pasteurisation of the milk until certified by a Veterinary Surgeon as free from infection.

"Loose" milk is delivered by 4 retailers only, one from within the district and 3 from without. The bulk of the milk sold is "bottled" and is retailed as received from the Dairies. It consists wholly of designated milk, viz. :—"Sterilised," "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested." "Secondary" Licences have been issued as follows :—2 each in respect of Sterilised, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk. The Principal Licences were issued by the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton. 11 Shopkeepers have been licensed to retail "Sterilised" Milk all of which is sold in bottles as delivered. One producer retailer is licensed in respect of Pasteurised Milk.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No Slaughter-house is used in this District. Three Retail Butchers are supplied with Meat from a Central Depot at Brierley Hill which is controlled by the Ministry of Food.

Inspections of live animals and carcases are carried out there by qualified inspectors.

Notice of the slaughter of 4 pigs for home consumption was given voluntarily. The carcases were examined.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. 2 persons were licensed for a period of 3 years to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter-house.

Food Distribution.

Food & Drugs Act 1938 Sec. 15.

Food is sold by retail in the following shops viz. :—

Butchers 3, Grocers 4, General 10 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Greengrocers etc. 6 (2 lock-up shops and four part shops and part dwelling houses), Sweets and Tobacco 2 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Fried Fish 3 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Cafes 1.

Food poisoning outbreaks—Nil.

The model Bye-Laws suggested by the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food sold or intended for sale for human consumption have been adopted. They were confirmed by the Minister of Food and came into operation on September 11th, 1950. They are generally well observed. The majority of Shops are of the "mixed" type, usually a combination of shop and dwelling house. They were constructed for the purpose and living accommodation is not sacrificed for the purpose of "trade." They do not present any special difficulty.

Unsound Food.

The following food found to be unfit for human consumption was surrendered and destroyed:—15 tins Fruit (Fruit Salad and Apricots), 44 lbs. Boneless Ham originating from Holland and 98 lbs. Sugar Sweets.

Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your District. 10 premises—8 Shops, 1 Cafe, 1 Sports Pavilion—are registered for the sale and storage of Ice Cream. They have proper "Conservators."

Prevention of Damage by Pests.

The following premises have been treated against Rats, viz.:—Factories 6, Refuse Tips 2, Dwelling Houses, 10. Regular quarterly treatment is recommended for factories. The work is carried out by an Operator employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council by arrangement with Mr. H. J. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector whose assistance is appreciated. It has not been necessary to treat the sewers. Previous tests were "negative."

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

Complaints have been made of the emission of smoke and fumes from 2 factory chimneys. The matters are receiving attention. Alterations are contemplated which it is hoped will result in a "permanent cure."

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1952.